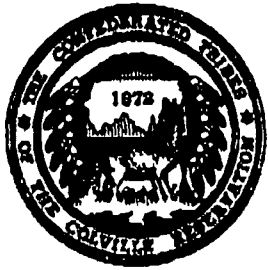


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Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Office of Environmental Trust

P.O. Box 150, Nespelem, WA 99155

PHONE: (509)634-2426 FAX: (509)634-2427

May 24, 2002

Marianne Horinko
 US Environmental Protection Agency
 Ariel Rios Building
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20460
 horinko.marianne@epa.gov

Dear Ms. Horinko,

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Tribes) in North Central-Eastern Washington State petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency in August of 1999 to assess contaminants resulting from decades of mining and pulp mill industry pollution. It has been well documented that much of this pollution has come across the international border via the Columbia River. We believe a listing on the NPL will be considered in 2002 for this site.

The Tribes have continued to raise these issues with state and federal agencies, as this pollution has impacted our tribal and regional resources. These are complex issues in a dynamic system that transcends many borders. In 2000 a delegation of tribal elected officials, as well as staff from the tribes environmental programs traveled to Washington DC at a great expense to the Tribe to brief EPA, Congressional and Senate representatives on these issues. One of the issues raised at that meeting was the need to build some awareness at the headquarters level for some of these international issues and the protection of our nations waters as they enter the United States. While we continue good cooperation from the Region 10, we need the positive interaction with headquarters on some of these issues.

We will be hosting a two day Tribal "Open House" in late June, early July for key EPA headquarters officials. The first day we envision a field tour of the US portion of the Upper Columbia River area to the Canadian Border to see the river first hand, the tribal and public resources we are concerned about and learn more about the dynamics of the system. The second day we will invite local state and federal officials to an informal Natural Resources Fair at our Tribal Headquarters. This will enable the tribes and attendees to interact and update local officials about our resource programs and the status of CERCLA and other activities in the region.

Patti Stone, with our Office of Environment Trust will be coordinating the Open House and will be



contacting you upon your reply. Please contact Gary Passmore, Director of our Office of Environmental Trust at 509-634-2415 or gary.passmore@colvilletribes.com for any information relating to environmental programs and resources.

Please seriously consider our invitation and we will do all we can to accommodate your schedules and interests. An information packet is inclosed for your information.

Sincerely,

Margie Hutchinson

Colleen Cawston, Chairperson
Colville Business Council

enclosure

Michelle, Mike & Sylvia, Dave -

Felicia Wright (Hq) will let me know who from Hq will be attending. I plan to attend the Tribal "Open House" and will keep you informed on the Tribes' schedule & Hq participation.

Monica Tonel x0323